



Jean Schmidt

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

**Committee on Agriculture
Subcommittees**

Ranking Member, Horticulture and
Organic Agriculture
Department Operations, Oversight,
Nutrition, and Forestry
Conservation, Credit, Energy, and
Research

**Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
Subcommittees**

Aviation
Highways and Transit
Railroads, Pipelines and
Hazardous Materials

December 2, 2009

The Honorable James L. Oberstar
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John L. Mica
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2163 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Oberstar and Ranking Member Mica:

I am writing to respectfully request that the following projects be authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 2010.

Project 111-OH-2nd-001 (Ohio Riverfront, Cincinnati, Ohio): The project will enhance public use of the recreational and environmental amenities of the Ohio River and stabilize flood banks of the Ohio River in downtown Cincinnati. This project was authorized at \$30 million in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. Funding has been consistently strong and we are coming close to the \$30 million level. To allow this project to seamlessly move forward, I respectfully request the authorization be increased to \$50 million. Additionally, I ask that the non-Federal sponsor be credited with work the sponsor carries out after the date of the partnership agreement. This is a joint request with Congressman Driehaus. The following is draft language provided to me by the Army Corps of Engineers:

Section 5116 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (121 Stat. 1238) is amended –

- (1) in subsection (a) by striking “\$30,000,000” and inserting “\$50,000,000”; and*
- (2) in subsection (b) by adding at the end the following: “The Secretary shall also credit toward the non-Federal share of the cost of the project the cost of planning, design, and construction work carried out by the non-Federal interest for the project after the date of the*

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partnership agreement for the project if it is determined by the Secretary to be integral to the project."

Project 111-OH-2nd-002 (New Boston Levee): The Village of New Boston, Ohio has a flood wall levee which was constructed by the ACOE in 1950. The Village is low-income. In 2007, median household income was \$17,808. When project construction began in 1940 the population was 6,024. When the project was completed in 1950 it was 4,754. The present population is 2,430. The ACOE has informed the Village of a number of needed repairs to the flood protection system, which the Village estimates will cost \$6,500,000. Like many small jurisdictions around the country, New Boston is unable to afford the required maintenance. At the same time, I am informed that FEMA will decertify the protection system in April 2011, which would force the residents to acquire flood insurance. New Boston needs Federal assistance. I am requesting a reconnaissance study to examine maintenance deficiencies on the flood damage reduction system for rehabilitation of components of the protection system. Beyond New Boston, this situation reflects a broader problem that requires Congressional attention. The following is language I drafted in consultation with the ACOE:

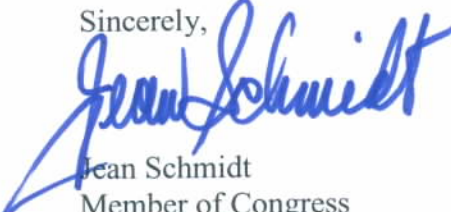
"The Secretary is authorized to conduct a reconnaissance study of the New Boston, Ohio local protection project authorized under section 4 of the Flood Control Act of June 28, 1938 to determine whether there are any feasible alternatives for the rehabilitation of components of the protection system."

Enclosed you will find two Congressional Earmark Certification forms with original signatures for each project that I have requested, a letter of support from the local project sponsor, and a copy of the receipt.

If I can provide you with further information, please contact Justin Louchheim of my staff at 202-226-0612.

Thank you for your consideration of these important requests.

Sincerely,



Jean Schmidt
Member of Congress

Enclosures
JS/jl